

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

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Tallahassee, Friday, March 17, 1905.

Congressman Sparkman, on his recent visit to Tampa, was greeted by a large assemblage of his admiring friends and fellow citizens, with "music by the band." Now it is in order for Congressman Davis' Palatka friends to give him a fitting demonstration of their regard on his return to abide among them.

Referring to the Florida hand-book recently prepared by Chief Clerk Elliot for the Agricultural Department, the Jacksonville Times-Union says: "In the absence of a State bureau of immigration, no pains should be spared to put such immigration machinery as we possess in good working order; and, whatever else the next Legislature may do, it should certainly see to it that the widest publicity possible is given Commissioner McLin's admirable hand-book."

The recently discovered instance of a reversion to paganism by a native-born African who had been brought to America in infancy, carefully reared and highly educated by white church people, and sent to his native land as a missionary, should not operate as a discouragement to the race in this country. The case of this man, the victim of that system of forcing which so delights many excellent people in the North who are utterly ignorant of the characteristics of the negro race, cannot be identified with the experiences of the millions in the South who, with the aid of the white people, are making haste slowly in the acquisition of learning and substance.

The following from the New York Press, a Republican newspaper, may serve as an indication of Republican sentiment on the Swayne case: "By its verdict as a court of impeachment the United States Senate gives Judge Swayne a bill of health as clean as the United States Senate cangive. Several members of the tribunal that acquitted him have been indicted for far worse than the worst charged against the judge. In view of the general suspicion that perhaps many of Judge Swayne's judges ought themselves to be degraded and banished from public life, the verdict acquitting him will have little weight with the country. It is as if an officer accused of conduct unbecoming a gentleman should receive a vindication from a court composed of green goods and gold-brick operators."

An exchange thus wittily paraphrases Shakespeare's "seven ages of man" as applied to the average career of the newspaper man: "The stork disappears and we look into the cradle and behold a male child. After running the gauntlet of measles, mumps and chicken-pox, he enters school. At the age of 10 he is a red-headed, freckle-faced boy and the terror of the neighborhood. At 12 he is an apprentice in a printing office. At 18 he has acquired two cases of long primer and an army press and is the editor of a country newspaper. At 20 he is married. At 30 he is bald-headed, stoop-shouldered, and the father of a large family. At 35 he is a corpse in a coffin, and as 500 delinquent subscribers file past his bier for the last look they are heard to say, 'He was a good fellow, but he couldn't save his money.'"

Afternoon journalism in Jacksonville is becoming strenuous. That condition was to have been expected when Claude L'Engle entered the field last year with his Daily Sun, but that it should be necessary for the president of the Sun Publishing Company, Mr. P. L. Sutherland, to formally deny, in the editorial columns, as he did in the issue of March 10, that neither the Consolidated Naval Stores Company, the Consolidated Grocery Company nor the Florida Bank and Trust Company are in any manner connected with or interested in the publication of The Sun, seems a bit curious to the average outsider. Then, in the same column, comes a heading: "Editor Carter Lies," followed by a refutation of an account which had appeared in The Metropolis of an encounter which occurred the day before between Editor L'Engle and an ex-policeman named Wadsworth. If these things must be, why not wait until the dog-days?

THE POLITICAL BOSS.

A recent short story in one of the magazines artfully and accurately depicts the leading characteristics of the political boss—that unsavory and pestiferous species of individual which has become a prominent feature of the modern political environment of many American governments, Federal, State and municipal. This particular boss, having enjoyed a long and successful lease of local power in one of the largest cities of the Union, had a mind to retire and live on "easy street" and the results of his consecutive manipulations of the political kingdom which he had governed, and had imparted to his secretary the name of the fortunate follower whom he had chosen as his successor.

The secretary, impressed with the possibility of losing his job, hastened to betray his chief to a fellow officeholder with whom he was intimate, and the two proceeded to "put up a job" on the "old man," by cunningly prompting his chosen favorite, the mayor-elect, to a course of independent defiance of the boss, by the removal of certain subordinates, the appointees of the boss, to make room for others who were his own particular adherents. The inevitable breach between the mayor and the boss settled the question of succession against the mayor and in favor of the secretary and his friend, both of whom remained long in power and feathered well their nests, as their predecessor had done—at the expense of the governed.

Fortunately for the people in this section of our great country, the full realization of the conditions existing in other regions, where bossism is practiced as a fine art, is as yet somewhat difficult. We have our political bosses—or would-be bosses—it is true, but they are merely amateurs, blunderers, seekers after local political power, who scarcely comprehend the most rudimentary elements of genuine, finished and successful bossism as it is practiced elsewhere.

"The man with a pull" which enables him occasionally to control a fat contract or a few petty offices is not a boss. His "influence" belongs to a very different class. He may succeed in misinforming those in authority to the extent of wreaking a petty personal spite against those who have been slow to acknowledge his political supremacy, or who have been so reckless as to defy his authority; and he may even succeed in so hoodwinking the voting public as to achieve his own election to some small office; but the really thoughtful and observing elements of the community upon which he seeks to inflict himself have no difficulty in sizing him up at his true value, and it is merely a question of time for those upon whom he relies as his staunchest supporters and adherents to discover his real character, with his ignominious downfall as the inevitable result of their enlightenment.

The South is not a wholesome or congenial latitude for the cultivation of bossism as it is known in other lands. The southern people—including those estimable and welcome strangers who have migrated from boss-ridden regions elsewhere to cast their lot among us—do not possess the temperament which would enable them to bow submissively to the behests of any individual citizen no wiser or more intelligent or more virtuous than themselves, whatever might be his pretensions. That easy indifference to the course of public affairs which we are prone to indulge in at times, and upon which the would-be boss so confidently calculates as one of the prime factors of the success for which he strives, frequently gives place to an alert and indignant activity, the provocation to which is the unpardonable assurance and fatuous self-confidence of the amateur boss, and the result of which is his complete and permanent extinction as a factor in the management of public and political affairs.

Taking things "by and large," as the renowned Captain Cuttle would say, we have little to fear from the insignificant aspirations of the amateur political boss. What with his inevitable unmaking by his supposedly humble, but yet watchful, followers, and his indignant repudiation by the better and predominant element of the population, his pathway is not bestrewn with roses, and he would often be an object of sincerest pity—if he were deserving of it.

A witness before a committee of the Connecticut Legislature has testified to the existence of corruption in elections in that State, citing instances, among which was the expenditure of \$2,000 in a town where there were only 800 voters. From a mere trade or occupation, professional politics appears to have degenerated into a species of brigandage, in which the worst elements of the population freely engage without fear of punishment.

A STRINGENT LAW.

Mr. George W. Willis, of Williston, Levy county, sends to the Times-Union the draft of a bill which he hopes to have introduced at the approaching session of the Legislature. The bill provides that "from and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for express companies, railroad companies or other public carriers or companies, person or persons operating drays, hacks, or other vehicles for transport to carry spirituous, vinous or malt liquors into any county or counties in this State which have voted 'dry' under Article 19 of the Constitution of the State of Florida, from any other county or counties in this State which have not so voted." Another section fixes a penalty of \$1,000, or imprisonment in the county jail for twelve months, or both, at the discretion of the court, for each violation of the law.

The True Democrat heartily wishes that such a law could be enacted and enforced. Indeed, it would be glad to see the manufacture of intoxicating liquors, intended to be used as a beverage, absolutely prohibited throughout the land. But it feels impelled to caution the advocates of temperance against the danger of going to extremes.

The prohibition against the public sale of intoxicating drinks under existing laws is effected solely by the will and the votes of the people themselves. Thus far, more than thirty of the forty-five counties of the State have "gone dry." The simple issue of abolishing the open saloon has been decided in those counties in the affirmative by the registered voters thereof. In many of them the matter is still in its experimental stage. Under the law a renewal of the controversy every two years is possible, and, in fact, almost inevitable. Might not any attempt to create and enforce new and additional restrictions result disastrously to the temperance cause in such future contests?

Let us adopt for a motto: Festina lente. Let us make haste slowly. Let us be satisfied, for a time, with the abolishment of the open saloon, and apply our energies to the still waiting work of holding on to the "dry" counties and causing the "wet" counties to "go dry" if we can. When that is accomplished, the time may come for a law, only much more far-reaching—a law forbidding the importation of liquors into the State.

The fact that Mr. W. J. Bryan has again been defeated, in the supreme court of Connecticut, in his effort to realize upon the alleged bequest of \$50,000 by his former friend and admirer, Philo S. Bennett, should not be regarded as an evidence that the would-be legatee is not as good a lawyer as he thought he was. Many a better one has made worse mistakes—but they occurred in the management of other people's affairs.

The death, on the 8th inst., of Senator Wm. B. Bate, of Tennessee, caused by exposure during the inauguration ceremonies, revives the much discussed proposition for a change in the date of that important event to a season more propitious and less dangerous to the participants, officials and others. Florida long ago, and wisely, changed the date of the meetings of the Legislature because of the probability of inclement weather in January, and it would seem that such a change could almost as easily be made in the date of the inauguration, even if it does require an amendment to the Constitution.

Soon after the reorganization of the State Democratic Executive Committee last summer, a committee was appointed by Chairman Fletcher to consider and present amendments to the primary election law, many of which were then regarded as being vitally necessary to the future well being of the party. The committee was as follows: Charles D. Tuten of Jasper, W. W. Farmer of Yulee, and D. U. Fletcher of Jacksonville, from the Second Congressional District; J. M. Young of Inverness, William Hocker of Ocala and L. E. Dozier of Leesburg, from the First Congressional District; Charles E. Davis of Madison, E. A. Crawford of Midway, W. T. Hendry of Perry, from the Third Congressional District. Chairman Fletcher has now called a special meeting of the State committee for the 23rd inst., at Jacksonville, for the purpose of hearing and considering the report of the above named committee. This is a very important matter, and every member of the State committee should take care to attend the meeting. The primary law urgently requires modification in many respects, and now is the time for those who have been entrusted with the duty to act, and act wisely.

The Monticello News makes the following flattering comment upon Miss Caroline Mays Brevard's recently published History of Florida: "The book certainly appears at the psychic moment when Florida's prosperity, wise methods of government and wonderful resources of soil and climate are matters of national comment. It is equal, if not superior, to any history of its kind used in the schools. Its extreme clarity of method, simple yet convincing style, interesting stories and lack of confusing detail make it an ideal school book, and we recommend that the State Superintendent put it in the curriculum, if he has not already done so."

Because we wish our friends at home to know what our friends abroad—and particularly our Florida newspaper friends—think and say of our new paper, we take pride and pleasure in reproducing the many generous and flattering notices made of it in the columns of our esteemed contemporaries. Nearly every one of our editorial brethren has happily caught the spirit of our intention in establishing and naming The True Democrat—no one more readily and truly than the Bristol Bee and the Palatka News, whose expressions of appreciative approval are particularly prized. To one and all we extend our sincerest thanks, and hope to merit all of the good things our friends have been kind enough to say of us.

The Gainesville Board of Trade, following the lead of the Jacksonville promoters of the scheme, recently adopted a resolution favoring the establishment of "a State bureau of immigration, a separate and distinct institution, conducted on practical business lines, with location at some central point, where Florida homeseekers and investors may obtain information of an official nature relative to the State, its pleasures and health resorts, transportation facilities, industrial opportunities, health and other statistics, lands and general resources," and urging the Legislature to make an appropriation therefor. This resolution opens up the whole project. The appropriation of the people's money to create a local institution like the one so unwittingly described in the resolution is one of the last things the Legislature will be likely to do.

Jacksonville push and enterprise challenge the admiration of the entire population of the State, and the rapidity and style in which the destroyed city has been rebuilt constitutes a veritable marvel of wonderful activity. But a part of that city's tremendous success has depended upon the assurance with which its people are in the habit of claiming "the earth and the fullness thereof." They wanted the State Capital, and when the people of the State denied their demands, they endeavored to secure the location of the Railroad Commission headquarters. They now seek to "establish" the State bureau of immigration at Jacksonville; and they began agitation for a "State fair," at Jacksonville, but when the Tampa people commenced making arrangements for a "State fair," the Jacksonvilleians changed their song and dance to "a great exposition." The whole population glories in Jacksonville's pluck and enterprise, but a bit of caution, not to ask or claim too much, might be timely.

Albert Williamson's Jacksonville Floridian takes the following view of the new lease of the State convicts to Messrs. C. H. Barnes & Co.: "Among the unsuccessful bidders for these convicts we find several of the warmest political and personal friends of the Governor, and still further we find the 'longest pole getting the persimmon.' The contract was awarded to the highest and best bidder, as the interests of the State of Florida may appear, and to the honor and cleanliness of the administration that awarded it. If this means anything, it means that there was no surreptitious opening of sealed bids, nor 'tips' slyly winked at or dropped to those expecting to do some of the board a favor in the future. We say that this lease and its history augurs a better and brighter dream for the Florida father or mother who may picture their barefoot boy rising from the sandspurs and plow handles and cook pots of humble homes to the highest office in the gift of the people, and their awakening to its realization they need not necessarily behold a thief."

ANNOUNCEMENT.

I hereby announce that I will offer my services as practical Accountant and Auditor, to the business public, for a limited number of engagements. I guarantee faithful and satisfactory service in every engagement.

EDGAR I. MATTHEWS.

THE FLORIDA PRESS.

Clippings and Comments Selected from Our State Newspapers.

The Florida Legislature will meet next month to make and unmake laws. It is devoutly to be wished that no bad bills pass and that every good bill be enacted into law. It is hoped that broad, common sense will be exercised in considering every question, especially in matters that will affect the general interests of the State. Great enterprises are on foot which promise immensely in prosperity and wealth to Florida. These should be helped and not hindered by our law makers when called upon to enact legislation necessary to their success. It is up to the Legislature that meets next month to make a record of good deeds done from which to date Florida's greatest prosperity and importance among the States.—Leesburg Commercial.

With Massey out of the way for president of the Senate, the race narrows down to Trammell, of this county, and West, of Santa Rosa county. It is not improbable, however, that there will be another Richmond in the field before the Senate is organized, the fact that both the remaining candidates are classified with the same political faction adding to the probability of a new name being presented.—Lakeland News.

Some of the papers are making a big howdy-do about how magnanimously Governor Broward appointed Senator Taliaferro to fill the short term till the meeting of the State Legislature. What a mess it would have been had he appointed anybody else! It is an affront to the Governor's intelligence to suggest that he might have even momentarily considered so grave an assault on the primary system.—Monticello News.

Senator John Neel, of Holmes and Walton counties, is in favor of Confederate veterans being pensioned, and in an open letter addressed to the people of his district, urges them to furnish him with the names of those who are entitled to pensions, and he will do all in his power to have them placed on the pension list. Senator Neel is a worker and a man who looks after the interests of the people, and as such is the business Senator and an old stand-by for the people of his district.—Jasper News.

Hon. B. E. McLin, Florida's very efficient Commissioner of Agriculture, should ask the Legislature to give him an appropriation to have printed and distributed 100,000 copies of the descriptive pamphlet of the State recently issued from his office. It would mean 50,000 additional families located among us.—Lake City Index.

If the Everglades can be drained and the lands reclaimed it will throw upon the market 3,000,000 acres of the richest lands in the State. If these lands ever become so that they can be cultivated the time will come when there will be seen down there vast fields of sugar cane and thousands of acres of vegetables that can be grown the year round, for the frost will hardly ever damage the tenderest plant growing in that section.—DeLand Record.

Hon. Robert W. Davis, the able representative from the Second Florida Congressional District for so many years, is once more a private citizen, his term having expired with the ending of the Congress last week. "Our Bob" will re-enter actively into the practice of law at his old home, Palatka, and we wish for him plenty of clients with big fees.—Madison New Enterprise.

Suppose a newspaper man, every time he hears a man criticize him or his paper in public should retaliate by holding up to public gaze the faults and short comings of said fault finder, what would be the result? The editor may not know it all, but he does not live in a community long without knowing a ducecd sight more than he publishes. Did you ever think of it?—High Springs Hornet.

We do not believe that Governor Broward had an opponent in the primaries but who, (since he is elected) wishes him the best of success. Before the primaries the News was against Governor P.oward, for it thought and still thinks that other candidates were better qualified for the honor; however, after the second primary when the people said Broward was the man; we were willing to support the nominee, and contrary to what the Advertiser says, we are glad Governor Broward has started out in the right way.—Wewahitchka News.

BRIEF FLORIDA ITEMS.

Rev. F. E. Shipp, pastor of the M. E. church at Lake City, died at his home in that place on the 8th inst.

At an election in Lake City on the 7th inst., the question of issuing bonds for water works, electric lights, paving, sewerage, city hall, etc., was decided adversely by large majorities on each proposition.

E. A. Willie, an aged citizen of Jefferson county, died at his home near Lloyd last week.

Pensacola has a new labor paper—"Siftings"—published weekly by Harper & Co.

Alachua county is to have several "R. F. D." routes.

Exports of phosphate from Florida have steadily increased from 1890—18,363 tons, to 1904—493,399 tons, the aggregate shipments for the fifteen years being 4,804,673 tons.

Wm. H. Jewell, of Orlando, has been made Brigadier-General, commanding the Third Brigade of Florida, U. C. V.